

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A pedestal defined zero throat write head comprising:

a first pole having a pedestal, the pedestal including a notch, the pedestal having a front and a back;

a second pole;

a gap separating the pedestal of the first pole from a portion of the second pole, the gap having a first portion and a second portion, the first portion of the gap being in proximity to the front of the pedestal, the second portion of the gap being in proximity to the back of the pedestal, the first portion of the gap being thinner than the second portion of the gap;

wherein the second portion of the gap has a top and a bottom, the top of the second portion of the gap being substantially parallel to the bottom of the second portion of the gap.

2. (Original) The pedestal defined zero throat write head of claim 1 wherein the first pole further includes a top along the gap, the top of the first pole being recessed along the second portion of the gap.

3. (Original) The pedestal defined zero throat write head of claim 1 wherein the second pole includes a bottom interface along the gap, the bottom of the second pole being recessed along the second portion of the gap.

4. (Original) The pedestal defined zero throat write head of claim 1 wherein the first pole further includes a top along the gap and the second pole includes a bottom along the gap, the top of the first pole and the bottom of the second pole being recessed at the second portion of the gap.

5. (Original) The pedestal defined zero throat write head of claim 4 wherein the notch has a first height near the front of the pedestal and a second height near the back of the pedestal, the second height being less than the first height.

6. (Original) The pedestal defined zero throat write head of claim 4 wherein the notch has a first width near the front of the pedestal and a second width near the back of the pedestal, the first width being less than the second width.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for providing pedestal defined zero throat write head comprising ~~the steps of~~:

- (a) providing a first pole having a pedestal, the pedestal having a front and a back;
- (b) providing a gap above the pedestal, the gap having a first portion and a second portion, the first portion of the gap being in proximity to front of the pedestal, the second portion of the gap being in proximity to the back of the pedestal, the first portion of the gap being thinner than the second portion of the gap; wherein the gap providing step (b) further includes the step of:

(b1) providing the second portion of the gap such that the second portion of the gap has a top and a bottom, the top of the second portion of the gap being substantially parallel to the bottom of the second portion of the gap

(c) providing a second pole, the gap separating the pedestal of the first pole and a portion of the second pole; and

(d) etching a notch in the pedestal of the first pole.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the step of providing the gap (c) further includes the steps of:

(c1) etching a portion of the pedestal in proximity to the back of the pedestal;

(c2) providing the second portion of the gap on the portion of the pedestal;

the first pole further includes a top along the gap, the top of the first pole being recessed along the second portion of the gap.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the second pole includes a bottom interface along the gap, the bottom of the second pole being recessed along the second portion of the gap.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7 pedestal defined zero throat write head of claim 1 wherein the gap providing step (c) further includes the steps of:

(c1) etching a portion of the pedestal in proximity to the back of the pedestal so that the portion of the pedestal is recessed;

(c2) providing the second portion of the gap on the portion of the pedestal; and

(c3) etching a portion of the bottom of the second pole.

11. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the notch has a first width at the front of the pedestal and a second width at the back of the pedestal, the first width being less than the second width.

Please add claims:

12. The pedestal defined zero throat write head of claim 1 wherein the first portion of the gap has a first top and wherein the top of the second portion of the gap is substantially parallel to the first top.

13. The pedestal defined zero throat write head of claim 1 wherein the first portion of the gap has a first bottom and wherein the bottom of the second portion of the gap is parallel to the first bottom.

14. The method of claim 7 wherein the first portion of the gap has a first top and wherein the top of the second portion of the gap is substantially parallel to the first top.

15. The method of claim 7 wherein the first portion of the gap has a first bottom and wherein the bottom of the second portion of the gap is parallel to the first bottom.